

I am writing to provide comments to the FCC on the E-Rate NPRM, proceeding 13-184. E-Rate has been very important to Macon County Schools because it has helped our students and teachers gain access to a wealth of online resources, communicate and collaborate, and develop the 21st century skills necessary for college and career. However, E-Rate funding levels have not kept pace with my district's bandwidth needs. I urge you to raise the E-Rate funding level to at least \$5 billion per year, which is close to the average demand level for each of the past two years. Macon County is a very rural isolated part of middle Tennessee. The poverty rate is high. Our students do not have the opportunities that more affluent children have like visiting museums, traveling across the US, or visiting other countries. Their resources in the home are very limited. Without e-rate funding and this much needed increase, children in Macon County cannot hope to succeed and be prepared for their future.